FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

UUPC Approval 3-30-26
UFS Approval _____
Banner _____
Catalog _____

Department Philosophy

College Honors College

Program Name	☐ **New Program***	**Effective Date** *(TERM & YEAR)*
Philosophy Concentration and Minor	☑ **Change Program***	Fall 2026

Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.

1. Edited the description of the concentration.
2. Change required courses:
Add PHI 2010 as a requirement go ensure all students have a gateway course.
Reduced required history of philosophy courses from 2 to 1.
Replaced requirement of PHI 3670 (Honors Ethical Theory), which we no longer regularly offer, with one of several ethics courses (1 "Values Course") that are regularly offered.
Removed requirement of either PHI 3300 or PHI 3320 or PHI 4400 and increased the required number of philosophy electives from 15 to 18: this avoids requiring courses not regularly offered and increases flexibility for students while providing sufficient depth in philosophy.
3. Delete Interdisciplinary concentration in philosophy and another discipline: this was deemed insufficiently rigorous for a philosophy concentration with too few constraints on the non-philosophy courses to ensure a coherent concentration.
4. Updated elective philosophy courses: deleted those no longer offered; added courses that were previously listed under required; included new course numbers recently given to some existing courses.
5. Remove requirement of an oral defense of the thesis to conform with Honors College practice.
6. Add paragraph with advice for students planning to go to graduate school in philosophy.

Changes to minor: removed the requirement of a history course and added gateway courses of Intro to Phil and Logic [this ensures all students with the minor have gateway courses and gives them flexibility in selecting

*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone	**Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation**
Mark Tunick, tunick@fau.du, 68670	

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair M. A. Tunick	3/20/2026
College Curriculum Chair Terje Hill	3-20-2026
College Dean Julie Eadeh	3/20/26
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	3-30-26
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Macroff	3-30-26
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

Concentration in Philosophy

Students must earn a "C" or better in each course taken to fulfill a concentration requirement.

Advisory Board:

Dr. Benjamin Keoseyan
Dr. Ashley Kennedy
Dr. Mark Tunick

The study of philosophy does not teach us what to think, but rather how to think in ways that are conducive to discovering truth. Philosophy, more than any other discipline, teaches us how to think critically. It requires deep consideration and reflection. In philosophy, we evaluate differing views about some of most foundational concepts of the modern world—such as free will, right and wrong, the existence of God, beauty, justice, liberty, and human happiness—with an eye towards what assumptions they rely on, where they came from, and above all, whether they are true.

The study of philosophy has been shown to improve clarity of thought and develop good habits of mind. It also improves one's ability to perform on standardized tests and thus serves as an excellent stepping-stone to careers in law, business, government, and even medicine. (See: https://theconversation.com/studying-philosophy-does-make-people-better-thinkers-according-to-new-research-on-more-than-600-000-college-grads-262681)

All philosophy students at the Wilkes Honors College are required to take Introduction to Philosophy, plus Logic—where they learn how to reason well, and to prove when someone is reasoning poorly—a history of philosophy class, and a class in ethics or political philosophy. Beyond that, the student is free to pursue their own philosophical interests, in such courses as biomedical ethics, the philosophy of science, the philosophy of law, environmental philosophy, the theory of knowledge, AI ethics, and more.

~~The essence of philosophy is formulating and asking questions. Philosophy teaches not what is true, but rather how to think in ways that are conducive to discovering truth. How you ask a question can determine the likelihood of success in finding an appropriate answer, and in taking philosophy, you learn methods for asking the kinds of questions that can lead to understanding and knowledge of the world. Philosophy is critical thinking. It requires deep consideration, reflection, and evaluation of ideas, principles, approaches, and even of the very tools and processes of understanding, reflection and evaluation themselves. When you engage in philosophy you build your mental muscles, improving your clarity of expression, honing your analytical skills, and gaining appropriate tools for logical and critical evaluation. Being skilled in philosophical thinking allows you to go beyond narrow views about nearly any issue and instead arrive at a more nuanced and in depth understanding. By studying philosophy, you become adept at understanding the support for and implications of a view, thus allowing you to formulate alternatives, evaluate competing claims, and develop beliefs that you can be confident are supported by good reasoning.~~

~~Philosophy is not for everyone. It is not for people who are content to rest with their assumptions about the world, or who are unprepared to delve into deep questions about the nature of things. It is for those of us who want to understand; who want not just to live, but to live responsibly and to live well; who cannot imagine living their lives without pondering the deeper questions, and asking why.~~

~~There are three main areas of philosophy:~~

~~Metaphysics: examines the nature of reality, including the nature of the mind and body.~~

~~Epistemology: examines what knowledge is and sound reasoning methods.~~

~~Ethics: examines morality, political theories, and what it means to live well.~~

~~In addition, there are ancillary topics in philosophy.~~

~~History of Philosophy: examines philosophical developments and ideas related to a particular time. (e.g. ancient Greek Philosophy)~~

~~Special Topics: examines philosophical issues related to a narrow domain: (e.g. philosophy of medicine).~~

~~There are two tracks in philosophy.~~ Student choosing a philosophy concentration will take 36 credit hours in philosophy, which includes ~~15~~ 12 required credits, ~~15~~ 18 elective credits, and a 6 credit thesis.

~~Students may also choose an interdisciplinary philosophy concentration, in which they take 15 credits in philosophy and 15 in other disciplines or interdisciplinary area such as physics, psychology, literature. fine art. women's studies, or political science and write a thesis combining philosophy and the selected area. Students selecting this track must consult with both their philosophy advisor and an advisor from the area selected.~~

Available Options:
Philosophy concentration; ~~Interdisciplinary Concentration in Philosophy and another area of study;~~ Minor Concentration in Philosophy.

Concentration in Philosophy

Course #	Course Name	Credits
PHI 2010	Honors Introduction to Philosophy	3

1 History course: PHH 3100 OR PHHI 3150 OR~~; and~~ PHH 3400 OR PHI 4930	Honors Ancient Greek Philosophy OR Honors Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy ~~or~~ OR Honors Modern Philosophy 1 OR Philosophy Special Topics course with a historical focus	~~6~~3
PHI 2101	Introduction to Logic	3
1 Values course (Ethics, Political philosophy): PHI 3670 OR (either POS 2692 OR CCJ 2002) OR PHI 3682 OR PHI 2642 or PHI 3633 or PHI 3456 or PHI 3653 or PHI 3692	Honors Ethical theory or (either Punishment or Law, Crime and the Crim Just System) or Environmental Philosophy or Ethics of Social Diversity or Biomedical Ethics or Philosophy of Medicine or Ethics in Bus/Govt/Soc or AI Ethics	3
~~PHI 3300 OR PHI 3320 OR PHI 4400~~	~~Theory of Knowledge OR Philosophy of Mind OR Philosophy of Science~~	~~3~~
18~~5~~ credits of philosophy electives (see list below)— see note on students planning to apply to graduate school in philosophy		18~~5~~-27
Honors thesis (IDS 4970)		6
Total		36-45

~~Interdisciplinary Concentration in Philosophy and Another Discipline~~

~~Course Name~~	
~~15 credits in Philosophy courses from the list below. At least 9 credits must be at the 3000 or 4000 level~~	
~~15 credits in another discipline~~	
~~Honors Thesis (IDS 4970)~~	
~~Total~~	

Philosophy Courses: Students must take any 6 of the following courses that are not being counted towards one of the requirements above.

Course #	Course Name	Credits
PHH 3100	Honors Ancient Greek Philosophy	3
PHH 3150	Honors Greek and Roman Philosophy	3
PHH 3400	Honors Modern Philosophy 1	3
PHH 3930	Honors Special Topics in the History of Philosophy	3
~~PHI 2010~~	~~Honors Introduction to Philosophy~~	3
PHI 2642	Honors Ethics of Social Diversity	3
PHI 2361	Honors Ways of Knowing	3
PHI 1933	Honors Freshman Seminar in Philosophy	3
PHI 3653	Honors Ethics in Business, Government and Society	3
PHI 3300	Honors Theory of Knowledge	3
PHI 3320	Honors Philosophy of Mind	3
PHI 3670	Honors Ethical Theory	3
PHI 3682	Honors Environmental Philosophy	3
PHI 3692	Honors Artificial Intelligence Ethics	3
~~PHP 3502~~	~~Honors Hegel's Political Philosophy~~	~~3~~

Course #	Course Name	Credits
PHI 3633	Honors Biomedical Ethics	3
PHI 3456	Honors Philosophy of Medicine	3
PHI 3682	Honors Environmental Philosophy	3
~~PHI 3644~~	~~Honors Obligations (Ethics)~~	~~3~~
PHI 3704	Honors Philosophy of Religion	3
PHI 4400	Honors Philosophy of Science	3
PHI 4906	Honors Directed Independent Study	1-~~4~~4
PHI 4915	Honors Directed Independent Research in Philosophy	1-3
PHI 4930	Honors Special Topics in Philosophy	3
PHI 4959	Honors Study Abroad in Philosophy	3
~~PHP 3502~~	~~Honors Hegel's Political Philosophy~~	~~3~~
~~PHP 3522~~	~~Honors Seminar in Nietzsche~~	~~3~~
POT 3021 or POT 2002	Honors History of Political Theory or Honors Introduction to Political Theory	3

Senior Thesis: The thesis or project will integrate the student's studies and demonstrate her/his understanding of key areas of philosophical inquiry and its application in selected areas of study, as well as his/her readiness to pursue graduate study. The thesis will be written under the direction of a thesis advisor and a second reader ~~committee and defended orally. Traditional textual formats as well as digital media may be employed~~.

Students planning to apply to graduate programs in Philosophy: Students should ensure they take the following courses: 2 history of philosophy courses (one early, one modern); either PHI 3320 or PHI 3300; and are strongly encouraged to take additional philosophy credits beyond the 36.

Restrictions: Students are expected to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 in the concentration. Courses receiving a grade lower than C may not be included for credit in the concentration. Students are reminded they need at least 42 3000 or 4000-level credits to graduate.

Minor concentration in Philosophy (15 Credit Hours)

The Philosophy Minor Concentration is designed to offer students significant coursework involving ~~the history of philosophy and in other key areas of~~ philosophical inquiry. ~~It is further designed to provide a course of study that complements an individual's concentration. Students are to select the appropriate combination of courses with the help of an advisor. At least 9 hours of coursework must be at the 3000 or 4000 level; 6 hours may be at the 2000 level, for a total of 15 credit hours.~~ Students must have at least a 2.0 grade point average in courses taken for the minor concentration.

Requirements:
PHI 2010 Honors Introduction to Philosophy (3)
PHI 2010 Honors Introduction to Logic (3)
~~Either Honors Ancient Greek Philosophy, Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, or Honors Modern Philosophy I, and 12 additional credit hours selected from the philosophy requirements or electives above.~~

Any 3 of the courses listed above under Philosophy Courses (9)
Total: 15 credits